

So, Burton chose her genre — the memoir — as a social response to her rhetorical situation. If she had been trained in music, she would have written a ballad or an opera, or if she had been born a little later, she might have told her story as a documentary film.

In her memoir, Burton wrote in the first person, portrayed real people, described settings, conveyed conflict, and told stories from her own life. These elements are features of the memoir genre and of any autobiography.